

camping and scenic views, the young girl scouts found themselves inspired by this natural habitat while learning lessons on the environment and work ethics that would accompany them on their future endeavors.

For the alumnae from 12 States as far away as California, Camp Natarswi will forever be a place where friendships flourished and lessons were learned about life and the importance of our natural resources. Most of all, these women were instilled with the Girl Scout tradition, something they have passed down to their children and grandchildren. I am pleased to recognize the 60th anniversary of this very special place for so many of my fellow Mainers.●

PEACETREES VIETNAM

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to describe a project being undertaken by a remarkable organization in my home State of Washington. PeaceTrees Vietnam, the 20th international PeaceTrees Program sponsored by the Earthstewards Network, represents the dedicated work of individuals working to promote peace on a local and global scale.

For over a decade, Earthstewards has worked around the world to foster dialog between peoples of various countries, and to contribute to communities around the world. Earthstewards has organized PeaceTrees Programs in many communities, including Capetown, South Africa; Auroville, South India; Bluefields, Nicaragua; and Tacoma, WA. Now, this organization is embarking on a project in Vietnam.

Every week in Vietnam, a child is killed or maimed by the explosion of an antipersonnel landmine. At this time, there are over 58,000 leftover landmines and unexploded ordnance in the Quang Tri Province of Vietnam, the DMZ during the Vietnam war. PeaceTrees Vietnam seeks to eliminate the threat of these devices by removing landmines, planting trees, raising community awareness, and reducing the dangers of landmines in Vietnam and across the globe.

This important program has several phases. First, beginning this summer, landmines will be removed near the old Khe May military base in the town of Dong Ha in Quang Tri Province. American and Canadian retired military experts as well as Vietnamese local militia will extract these destructive weapons of war. Then, in November, a Friendship Forest will be planted in this area. Not only will this serve as a cooperative effort of the Westerners and Vietnamese who plant these trees, it will help set up a buffer to stop the dry, hot winds from Laos and restore life to deforested terrain.

Next, construction of a Landmine Awareness Education Center will begin. Educational displays will be created, so children and adults may understand how to identify potentially unsafe areas, and what to do if a land-

mine is encountered. Mine clearance will continue through 1997 in the thousands of hectares of the surrounding farm and forest land. This will allow citizens to productively and effectively utilize the land again, and will help reforest the area.

As a member of the PeaceTrees Vietnam International Advisory Board, I am pleased to have the opportunity to assist efforts to make this landmine-ridden area safe again, and to raise awareness of the global problem of landmines. I applaud the work of all those who have helped organize and implement PeaceTrees Vietnam. Efforts such as theirs truly make a difference in the lives of countless individuals around the world.●

CELEBRATE HOSIERY WEEK— AUGUST 5–11, 1996

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, next week, August 5–11, marks the 23d annual observance of Celebrate Hosiery Week. It always gives me great pride to join in recognizing an industry which has contributed so much to the free enterprise system of our country and so much to the economy of North Carolina.

Mr. President, National Hosiery Week is of special importance to me because North Carolina is the leading hosiery State in the Nation. North Carolina is proud of the leadership of the hosiery industry and the fine quality of life that it has provided for so many people.

In fact, the hosiery industry plays a substantial role in the economy of more than half of the States of the Union. There are 343 companies in the hosiery business, operating 456 plants employing 62,300 people in 28 States. The statistics are staggering: these 62,300 people produce and distribute 22 million dozens pairs of hosiery a year. They contributed a record \$7.2 billion to the U.S. economy in 1995.

The hosiery industry has made great strides in improving productivity and the quality of its product. These efforts to make the hosiery industry more competitive have resulted in significant technological and design improvements in the manufacture of hosiery.

As a result, the hosiery industry has likewise made enormous gains in the area of foreign trade. Exports in 1995 grew by 9 percent over 1994 levels to 22 million dozen pairs—and that, Mr. President, is a lot of hosiery exports.

Mr. President, my hat's off to the hosiery industry because it is making a real difference in many small communities where the hosiery plant is often the main employer, providing good, stable jobs for its employees.

I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the hosiery industry and to its many thousands of employees for their outstanding contribution to our State and Nation.●

HIGH RUSSIAN HONOR TO IOWAN JOHN CHRYSTAL

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, John Chrystal, an outstanding Iowan, is one of only two Americans to be awarded the Order of Friendship, the highest honor that the Government of Russia can bestow on a noncitizen. This award, which was given at the behest of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, was presented at a ceremony in Des Moines, IA, by the Russian Ambassador to the United States, Yuli M. Vorontsov. It has been my privilege to have John as a close personal friend for many years, and I am extremely proud of his achievement in receiving this high and well-deserved honor.

Under Russian law, the Order of Friendship, which was established in 1994 by President Yeltsin, "is awarded to persons for significant contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between nations and nationalities, for helping the development of the Russian economy, for especially fruitful activities in scientific development, for bringing together and mutually enriching the cultures of nations and nationalities, and for strengthening peace and friendship between nations." John was honored for all of these reasons and in recognition of his 70th birthday, which was December 11 of last year.

John has had a long and distinguished career as a farmer and banker, and is recognized as a leading expert on agricultural, trade and economic matters involving the former Soviet Union. He has long worked to improve trade relations between our nation and the countries of the former Soviet Union and to help those countries modernize and restructure their agriculture and food systems. As a farmer himself, John has real credibility when he talks with farmers in Russia, Ukraine or one of the other countries of the NIS.

John has traveled to Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and other nations of the former Soviet Union some 50 to 60 times since 1959, representing our State of Iowa and our Nation as a private-citizen ambassador of good will and understanding. In addition, he has been remarkably generous in hosting many exchanges and delegations from those countries to our Nation and our State of Iowa. John has known personally all of the recent leaders of the Soviet Union and Russia and is well known among farmers and policy makers in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

We Iowans are tremendously proud of all the good work that John Chrystal has done over the years to help improve food and agriculture systems in the former Soviet Union and to foster stronger ties and a deeper level of understanding among our peoples.

Mr. President, I ask that a number of articles pertaining to the awarding of the Order of Friendship to John Chrystal be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows: